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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, we press on with the work of the Senate in this final week before the Independence Day recess. Be with us, Lord, so we can maximize the hours of this day. Help us to think clearly without confusion, to speak honestly without rancor, to debate without division, and to decide courageously without contention. May our rhetoric honor You and deal with issues and not personalities. Grant the Senators Your grace to finish this week as patriots who love You and count it a high privilege to serve as leaders of our beloved Nation.

Lord, we ask for Your protection for the people in Colorado and Arizona who are victims of conflagration on the forests, now consuming homes and entire towns. Bless the courageous firefighters as they seek to bring this fire under control. We trust this and all our need to You. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. LINCOLN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Nevada.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, when we complete morning business, we will proceed to the Defense authorization bill, which the Senate worked on all last week. Senator SMITH is going to offer an amendment regarding headgear, abaya. We expect a vote on that about quarter to 6 today.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I listened closely, as I try to do every day, to the Chaplain's prayer. He mentioned the terrible fires in the West, which brings to my attention the fact that

when there is trouble in the country, the place one has to look is to the Government. After one has completed their prayers and the spiritual things they do, the Government is next in line.

If we think about the wildfires that sweep the West every summer, it is the Federal Government that steps in to help. Tens of thousands of Federal employees fight those fires. They are professional firefighters. They come in every summer. They do very dangerous work. They place themselves in harm's way to protect property and people's lives. We have these firefighters who jump out of airplanes and parachute, heavily loaded with all kinds of equipment, to fight these fires. We have firefighters who rappel off the back of helicopters to fight these fires.

So for all the bad that people hear about Government, I think we should stop and think about the people who fight these fires that are consuming—there is one fire now in Arizona that is raging in an area about 10 times that of the District of Columbia. The fire line is 50 miles long. Again, we have there professional firefighters who are trained every summer. The Federal Government has programs for feeding them.

We have had fires, of course, in Nevada, and I have seen the tremendous logistical problems in feeding thousands of firefighters, for example, and having a place for them to sleep. Government is there to help us, not to hurt us.

EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972, TITLE IX

Mr. REID. Madam President, this week we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the landmark legislation that prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded educational and athletic programs.

I look back with great pride at the teams we have had in Nevada. One

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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would automatically think of the UNLV Running Rebels basketball team, which was a national champion, and I do look back with great pride at Jerry Tarkanian and those great athletes. Six basketball players were drafted in the first round that year, that is how good they were, but I also look back with great pride to the UNLV Rebel women's softball teams. We had all-Americans there, too. Lori Harrigan is an example. She pitched in two Olympics, won two gold medals. She is a Las Vegan. She went to UNLV. It was during her years that we were ranked in the top two or three teams in the country.

I love to go watch the Rebel women play. We now have a new stadium for softball. I have told other people this, maybe not so many all at once, but I would rather watch them play than the men's baseball team. It is a much quicker game. They are tremendous athletes. You are right on top of the game in that little stadium, right there with the players.

We should be happy with all of the progress we have made providing girls and women with opportunities previously denied them. We must continue our efforts to promote gender equality because the job is not complete.

I can remember going to a rural community in Nevada, White Pine County High School, and I was going to speak to an assembly. They had me in a room waiting for the kids to gather. Two girls were there, obviously doing homework, studying. They had on letter sweaters. It was kind of cold in the room. I made conversation with them. We talked about how much they loved their athletics.

I told them they were able to play ball because of the law we passed in Congress, that they would not be playing otherwise. They said they did not understand that. When I left, one of the girls—her name was Cassandra—said, "I would die if I did not have my athletics."

I am sure she was exaggerating, but she conveyed to me how much she enjoyed athletics. It was like when I was a young man in high school, that was the No. 1 thing for me. It was the No. 1 thing for her.

We must be aware that Title IX programs that have proven so effective in helping girls and women are under assault from critics who would like to turn the clock back.

A major column in Newsweek magazine was bashing Title IX about 3 weeks ago, saying it is a bad program and all it does is hurt boys. Millions of people see each Newsweek magazine publication.

I cannot allow the challenges to proceed. When my wife and I went to high school, the only thing she could do athletically was be a cheerleader. That is what she did. It did not matter if she could run as fast as Gail Devers, or that she could jump high, or whatever it might be in athletics today, she could not be involved. They did not

have programs for girls. That is the way it was almost every place in America.

My boys got their athletic ability from my wife, more so than from me. Yet she did not have the chance when she was young to be competitive in sports.

Title IX has helped dramatically to increase participation in sports among female students. Among high school girls, there has been an almost tenfold increase, from fewer than 300,000 playing competitive sports 30 years ago, to now, almost 3 million. At the college level, the number of female athletes increased from 30,000 to 150,000. Clearly, these statistics show if you build it, they will come. Girls and young women have a high level of interest in sports and are eager to have equal opportunities.

I have no doubt that my participating in athletics and my sons' participating in athletics helped build character. That is what athletics is all about.

Recently, I had the opportunity to have Billie Jean King come to my office. I had a great visit with her. Billie Jean King is what Title IX is all about. She inspired a generation of women, and some men, to participation in athletics when she beat a world-class tennis player. It was on national TV. Everyone knew she would lose, but she trounced him. We reminisced about that. The main reason she came to see me was to talk about the changing role in sports as it relates to women and the importance of Title IX.

Billie Jean King has inspired successive generations of women athletes such as the world champion women's soccer team, whose players like Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain, and Mia Hamm have benefitted from Title IX. I had the opportunity recently to join Julie Foudy at a soccer clinic she conducted for some girls in Las Vegas, where she was playing in a professional soccer league match that night. It was great to see hundreds and hundreds of people who came to see Julie Foudy, a great professional athlete who got there as a result of Title IX.

Judy Foudy, Brandi Chastain, and Mia Hamm now serve as role models, as do the current tennis stars, Venus and Serena Williams. We must continue to encourage participation in sports and give girls and women the same opportunities that boys and men have traditionally had. Athletic training and competition have the same benefits for females as for males, teaching them not only how to score goals but set goals and work hard to achieve them through cooperation and teamwork, developing leadership skills and instilling self-confidence.

At a time where far too many American kids lead sedentary lives where they do not move off the couch, and many are obese, we must support programs that lead to improved fitness and health. Adolescent female athletes are more apt than nonathletes to de-

velop a positive body image, less likely to become pregnant, and are at less risk for developing women's diseases such as osteoporosis and breast cancer.

In addition, sports provide a safe and healthy alternative to drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and to antisocial behavior. Students who participate in sports feel a greater connection to school and keep their grades open to maintain their eligibility.

Mr. President, as I indicated, there are people who are trying to get rid of Title IX, saying it is unfair that we have girls participating in high school and college athletics because it hurts boys' programs, and for other reasons. They say things such as girls are not as competitive, they don't need to do this—I am not making this up. You can read the editorial in Newsweek Magazine.

Mr. President, before Title IX, there were almost no athletic scholarships available for women. Now many women have been able to pursue a higher education as a result of participation in sports, just like young men did and still do.

I am disappointed, if not surprised, that some critics would like to halt this program. They are making misleading and unfair criticisms of Title IX.

Let's set the record straight. Title IX does not require "quotas." It is wrong to scapegoat women as the supposed cause of cuts in men's athletic programs. In fact, colleges have added hundreds of men's teams and there are tens of thousands more male athletes at universities since Title IX was enacted. While it is true that some men's teams—and some women's teams—have been dropped during this time period, many factors, including a declining interest in a particular sport, influence a school's decision. Dropping a men's team has never been required by law or the courts enforcing the law of Title IX. Rather, each school is given discretion to make decisions about how to comply with Title IX and provide equal opportunities and treatment for male and female student-athletes.

So while we remain vigilant against attacks on Title IX, we must also push for its continued implementation and enforcement.

For most Americans, Title IX is synonymous with our efforts to provide girls and women an equal opportunity to participate in sports, but Title IX addresses a whole range of important programs and issues related to education. In fact, only a small fraction of Title IX complaints received by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights are related to athletics.

Title IX also has helped provide women with equal access to higher education.

I remember when I practiced law. A very fine, brilliant man I worked with was talking about women being lawyers. There were not many lawyers in Las Vegas at the time that were female—very few. My brilliant friend

said there will never be a lot of women lawyers because they have to carry these big briefcases and big files. Well, he was certainly wrong because a lot of men practice law that don't carry big files and big briefcases. Now there are a lot of women who practice law who carry big briefcases and big files. It has been found that they are just as good in court as men. They are just as good at drawing wills and working in corporate America as men. So Title IX has helped provided equal access to education for women.

Years ago, many universities excluded or severely restricted women from admission to certain programs. Now, however, the percentages of women enrolled in American law schools and medical schools are about the same as for men.

Unfortunately, according to reports recently issued by the National Women's Law Center and the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, young women continue to be subject to persistent gender segregation and discriminatory counseling in high school vocational and technical education programs at American high schools. There was a wonderful piece a week ago last Saturday about women on public radio about how girls are treated in high school, about going into programs that are vocational in nature, mathematics in nature. School counselors talk them out of it every day. While we are speaking, counselors are telling girls: why don't you take up something else? How about being a nurse or a school teacher? You don't want to go into vocational education or work on cars. But they do and they do just as well as men working on cars. So there is some real significant discriminatory practice there.

They are often steered toward programs like cosmetology, health aide preparation, and child care training, nursing, teaching all of which lead to lower paying jobs most of the time; while male students congregate in programs leading to higher paying careers in technology and the trades. This has significant negative implications for women's employment prospects and earning power.

We need to vigorously defend and enforce Title IX in all of the areas it covers, so that we can sustain and expand upon the progress we have made.

Often we hear that girls and women are the beneficiaries of Title IX, but I think it is more accurate to say that we all benefit from this important civil rights legislation—these affirmative action programs that are Title IX. Certainly, American society as a whole is better when women—who, after all, make up more than half of our population—are provided a fair and equal opportunity to develop their full potential.

I go back to what I said when I started this speech. I reflect on watching the Running Rebels basketball team when they were the national champions. There were great players on that

team. As I indicated, six of the players on that team in 1 year were drafted in the first round.

I also reflect with pleasure on watching Lori Harrigan throw a softball and keep the UNLV Rebels softball team in the top 10.

I also reflect on how things have changed since I started practicing law. The legal profession is better now because of the women involved, just as the Senate is a better place because of the women who are here. That is what Title IX is all about.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Nevada for bringing up the issue of women in sports. It has meant a great deal for women and girls to have these opportunities.

The Senator talked about when his wife was in school and all she could do was cheer for the team. I know Mrs. Reid. She and I are about the same age. That was exactly my experience. I am very happy to say my daughter was able to play soccer. I see the young girls today reaching for the stars—and attaining them.

I wonder what the order is at this point in terms of the time division?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until 4 o'clock is evenly divided for morning business.

Mrs. BOXER. Our time runs out at 3:30?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Ten minutes to each side.

Mr. DORGAN. Reserving the right to object, is it evenly divided on both sides or just 10 minutes per Senator?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Ten minute grants, evenly divided to each side, but no one side has control.

DECLINE IN QUALITY OF LIFE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I take to the floor today to call attention to an alarming trend that I see happening in this country. It is a decline in the quality of life for our people in this country. It is beginning. I am concerned it will continue.

Clearly, I am not talking today about the tragedy that hit on 9-11. Of course, that had an impact across the board in terms of worrying about our children and concern for our communities. I am setting that aside. What I really want to talk about is the business of this Government that is keeping our people safe from a couple of things. One is crime in the streets. The other is the quality of our air, our water, our neighborhoods in terms of this environment that we so cherish.

I am very concerned we are beginning to see fallout from policies that are occurring in this administration that has been in power now for 17 months. We first get the alarming news that after 9 years of decline, there is a very large change in the crime rate. We see increases in the murder rate. We learn of increases across the board from reading

the newspaper. We have an expert, Patrick Murphy, who basically worries that we have eliminated the COPS program because this administration does not support it. It has put 100,000 police on the beat. We need to do more. That is having an impact.

Also, we are seeing cuts in aid to States and localities in the criminal justice area. We are seeing these cuts because this administration just does not have that as a priority. They have as a priority cutting taxes for people who earn over \$1 million a year. That is the truth. It costs money to put a policeman on the beat, to protect a neighborhood, a street, a school. If it is more important to give tax breaks to people who do not need it, that is the price we are going to pay. It is beginning to come home to roost.

Another area where we are beginning to see decline is in the quality of life in the environment. We already know this administration is cutting in half the Superfund sites that are going to be cleaned up. I have a chart that shows the number of cleanups we did under the Clinton administration, and the number of cleanups that are now being proposed by the Bush administration.

In the red here, the average number for the last 4 years of the Clinton administration was 86 sites cleaned up each and every year. That means 86 neighborhoods reclaiming an area that was so toxic and polluted there could be no economic development. Those sites were cleaned up.

When the Bush administration came in, they promised they would clean up 75 sites. We were not happy about that—we saw that was a reduction of 10 sites and that would mean 10 communities in trouble, property values declining, quality of life declining, children's health declining, and so on—but listen to what happened. After we adjusted to the fact that we were going to see 11 sites fewer cleaned up, we now see their proposal is to actually go to 47 sites.

They are cutting in half the number of Superfund sites to be cleaned. Why? Because it is not a priority. It is more important to them to give money to people who earn over \$1 million. That is the bottom line. There is not enough money to put cops on the beat, not enough money to clean up these sites. It is a very troubling trend. These communities were counting on these cleanups, and they are not going to happen.

These sites are not isolated. In my own State of California, 40 percent of the people live within 4 miles of a Superfund site. So we are talking about a real problem. But more than that, there are many other problems that we see.

I urge people who may be listening to go to a Web site that we have set up, on our side, to detail the various rollbacks that we are seeing in terms of the environment.

Go to this Web site: democrats.senate.gov/environment, and, you can see what we are talking about. We